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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/551,470

09/30/2005

Naruo Hashino

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EXAMINER

BRIGGS, NATHANAEL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/551,470	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HASHINO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> NATHANAEL R. BRIGGS	<b>Art Unit</b> 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/30/05; 4/19/07</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: There is no antecedent basis for "the members" (line 7), and it is unclear what constitutes "the members". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear what the scope of the phrase, "fixed in a high-deck manner", entails. For the purposes of examination, the phrase is interpreted to include an item being attached from a top-side to a member above the item.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

**6. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito (US 6,910,784).**

7. Regarding claim 1, Ito discloses a LCD device (see figure 1 and 2, for instance) having a liquid crystal panel (10) and an illumination unit for illuminating the said LCD panel, wherein the said illumination unit includes a substantially wedge-shaped light-guiding plate (1) having a backside being inclined so as to be formed thinner from one side edge to the other side edge, a linear light source (3) disposed along a thicker plate surface at one side edge of the said light-guiding plate (1), lead wires (4) severally connected to both ends of the said linear light source, and a housing (7) that houses the members, and a groove (14) is formed on the bottom wall of the housing (7) such that a gap is created between the backside of the light-guiding plate (1) and the bottom wall at a certain area portion of the light-guiding plate wherein the plate is the least thick, with a part of the lead wires (4) residing in the gap and being arranged along the other side edge of the light-guiding plate (1), and made to extend to the outside from the backside of the housing (7). Claim 1 is therefore unpatentable.

8. Regarding claim 2, Ito discloses a LCD device according to claim 1 (see figure 1 and 2, for instance), wherein a portion of the said lead wires is housed in a groove formed on the bottom wall of the said housing, and the wires are led out to the outside through the said groove. Claim 2 is therefore unpatentable.

9. Regarding claim 3, Ito discloses a LCD device according to claim 1 (see figure 1 and 2, for instance), wherein a reflector (5) is disposed on the backside of the said light-

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guiding plate, having a bent portion where one end of the reflector is bent to be shaped substantially in the form of a horseshoe, and the said linear light source and the thicker end edge of the said light-guiding plate are inserted in the said bent portion. Claim 3 is therefore unpatentable.

10. Regarding claim 4, Ito discloses a LCD device according to claim 1 (see figure 1 and 2, for instance), wherein a circuit board, on which a circuit element for driving the said LCD panel and a connector are mounted, is attached on the backside of the said housing to lie parallel with the said LCD panel. Claim 4 is therefore unpatentable.

11. Regarding claim 5, Ito discloses a LCD device according to claim 4 (see figure 1 and 2, for instance), wherein a guide member for guiding a main body side connector to the said connector for connection is formed on the backside of the said housing. Claim 5 is therefore unpatentable.

12. Regarding claim 6, Ito discloses a LCD device according to claim 4 (see figure 1 and 2, for instance), wherein the said circuit board is fixed in a high-deck manner, and the said guide member has an inclined plane extending toward one side facing the longer side of the said connection port. Claim 6 is therefore unpatentable.

13. Regarding claim 7, Ito discloses a LCD device according to claim 5 (see figure 1 and 2, for instance), wherein the said guide member is made of resin, and formed integrally to the said housing. Claim 7 is therefore unpatentable.

**14. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishida et al. (US 2002/0149713).**

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15. Regarding claim 1, Ishida discloses a LCD device (see figure 4 and 5, for instance) having a liquid crystal panel (2) and an illumination unit (7) for illuminating the said LCD panel, wherein the said illumination unit includes a substantially wedge-shaped light-guiding plate (20) having a backside being inclined so as to be formed thinner from one side edge to the other side edge, a linear light source (7) disposed along a thicker plate surface at one side edge of the said light-guiding plate (20), lead wires (9) severally connected to both ends of the said linear light source (7), and a housing (16) that houses the members, and a groove (for wire 9) is formed on the bottom wall of the housing (16) such that a gap is created between the backside of the light-guiding plate (20) and the bottom wall at a certain area portion of the light-guiding plate wherein the plate is the least thick, with a part of the lead wires (9) residing in the gap and being arranged along the other side edge of the light-guiding plate (20), and made to extend to the outside from the backside of the housing. Claim 1 is therefore unpatentable.

16. Regarding claim 2, Ishida discloses the LCD device according to claim 1 (see figure 4 and 5, for instance), wherein a portion of the said lead wires (9) is housed in a groove formed on the bottom wall of the said housing (16), and the wires are led out to the outside through the said groove. Claim 2 is therefore unpatentable.

17. Regarding claim 3, Ishida discloses the LCD device according to claim 1 (see figure 4 and 5, for instance), wherein a reflector (10) is disposed on the backside of the said light-guiding plate (20), having a bent portion where one end of the reflector is bent to be shaped substantially in the form of a horseshoe (side reflector 4), and the said

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linear light source and the thicker end edge of the said light-guiding plate are inserted in the said bent portion. Claim 3 is therefore unpatentable.

18. Regarding claim 4, Ishida discloses the LCD device according to claim 1 (see figure 4 and 5, for instance), wherein a circuit board, on which a circuit element for driving the said LCD panel and a connector are mounted, is attached on the backside of the said housing to lie parallel with the said LCD panel. Claim 4 is therefore unpatentable.

19. Regarding claim 5, Ishida discloses the LCD device according to claim 4 (see figure 4 and 5, for instance), wherein a guide member for guiding a main body side connector to the said connector for connection is formed on the backside of the said housing. Claim 5 is therefore unpatentable.

20. Regarding claim 6, Ishida discloses the LCD device according to claim 4 (see figure 4 and 5, for instance), wherein the said circuit board is fixed in a high-deck manner, and the said guide member has an inclined plane extending toward one side facing the longer side of the said connection port. Claim 6 is therefore unpatentable.

21. Regarding claim 7, Ishida discloses the LCD device according to claim 5 (see figure 4 and 5, for instance), wherein the said guide member is made of resin ([0023]; [0041]), and formed integrally to the said housing. Claim 7 is therefore unpatentable.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NATHANAEL R. BRIGGS whose telephone number is

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(571)272-8992. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM - 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. R. B./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2871

/Andrew Schechter/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2871